

# Around the Rialto

(CHURCH NEWS 03-07-10)

## Welcome to Our Visitors!

For our first time visitors, please fill out the **Welcome** card in the pew rack and stop by the Welcome/Information Center— we have a gift for you! We pray you have experienced the presence of God here at Venice Presbyterian Church.

### CROP CONCERT ROCKS!

Thanks to everyone who came out last Monday evening for *A Classic Crop Concert*. VPC's own Eric Watters and accompanist Pastor Chris dazzled for a great cause – feeding the hungry both here in Venice and around the globe. May God bless and multiply our effort and financial resources for His glory!

### WEDNESDAYS 11 AM

- March 10 — Warren Apple, organ; Robert Apple, trumpet; Stephen Apple, Clarinet
  - March 17 — Gene Hodges, organ
  - March 24 — Linda Petersen, organ
- Lenten Devotionals are available at the Information Center.



### COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES

#### RICHARD MORRIS

MARCH 19—7 PM



Richard has appeared on the Today Show, performed at Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, is artist in residence at Spivey Hall, Atlanta, GA, and head of Clayton State Organ Dept.

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#### ANN PILOT—HARPIST

APRIL 11—7 PM

Enjoy an enchanting evening featuring Ann Pilot, retired principal harpist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, assisted by **Tai Murray**, violinist, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

To purchase tickets call 488-5525. \$10 each.

### HOLY WEEK

#### PALM SUNDAY SERVICES

8, 9:30 & 11 AM

#### MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 1

At 6 PM we will be holding a traditional Jewish Seder Dinner as Jesus and his disciples celebrated on Maundy Thursday. We encourage families to attend and participate. Sign-up will begin next Sunday (limited space available in Fellowship Hall.) A free will offering will be received.

#### MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE — 7:30 PM

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE — 2 PM

#### EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

8, 9:30 & 11 AM

Celebrated music featuring choirs, brass and pipe organ. Inspiring message by Pastor Chris Romig, "Why Are We Afraid?"


# Worship

## ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

### CHANCEL FLOWERS

The main floral arrangement in the Sanctuary is given today in *loving memory of mother, Alice Shell*, by Barb and Judy.

### MUSIC MINISTRIES

 For information on any of our VPC choirs, please contact Warren Apple, 488-2258.

### WEDNESDAY MORNING COMMUNION

There's an opportunity to gather for worship every Wednesday morning. VPC members, friends, and visitors gather in the sanctuary for a contemplative service of prayer and communion. All are invited to enter God's house, to the peaceful sound of meditative piano music and experience this mid-week spiritual lift. One of the pastors offers brief words of reflection on Scripture, followed by a time of silent and spoken prayers and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The service begins at 9 a.m. and concludes before 9:30.

### PRAYER SHAWLS

Prayer shawls are available for use during the worship service by anyone needing spiritual and/or physical comfort. Please ask an usher. If you wish to have a prayer shawl to take home, please contact Peg Moffett, 485-9204.

### AUDIO CDs OF TODAY'S SERVICE

You may pick up your reserved copy, request a copy at the Information Center, or contact the church office, 488-2258. Cost is \$3 each. If you have internet access, you may listen to the sermons at [www.venicepresbyterian.org](http://www.venicepresbyterian.org).

## UPCOMING WORSHIP

### WORSHIP SERVICES 8, 9:30 & 11 AM

#### MARCH 14

Pastor Chris Romig  
"The Thrill of Victory"

#### MARCH 21

Pastor Chris Romig  
"The Agony of Defeat"

### Easter Series

*Begins Sunday, April 4th*

#### **Live Without Fear**

Each sunrise seems to bring fresh reasons for fear. Layoffs at work, slow downs in the economy, flare-ups in the Middle East, downturns in the housing market, and upswings in global warming. Oversized and rude, fear herds us into a prison and slams the door. Wouldn't it be great to walk out? Join us for a life changing study—**FEARLESS**.

### SEASONAL DECORATIONS

If you wish to help defray the expenses of decorating for the Easter season, envelopes are provided in the pews. Contributions may be made in honor of, or in memory of a loved one. Names will be posted in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

# Fellowship

## BBT EVENT

*(Breaking Bread Together, formerly F.E.A.S.T.)*

Everyone is encouraged to sign up today at the fellowship table on the Ministry patio. Meet new friends over dinner in member's homes. Our next fellowship dinner will be on **Sunday, March 21**. The theme is "March Madness." The time is set by the hostess home. For additional information, please call Patricia Bullock, 493-7866 or Barbara Price, 497-0854.

## MEN'S MINISTRY

- **Men's Fellowship** Come to the next Men's Fellowship, Thursday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Mr. Paul McCord will discuss "My Life and Sports Ministry." Paul has spent a lifetime in sports as a player, coach and now as an advocate of lacrosse at the high school and community level. Dessert will be served. Please sign up on the **Ministry patio**.
- **Men's Friday Group** meets at 8 a.m. in CMC II. Join us for coffee and fellowship.

## WOMEN'S SERENDIPITY BIBLE STUDY RETREAT

Join us for an afternoon social, dinner, evening worship, overnight stay, and meaningful small group meetings at Our Lady of Perpetual Hope Retreat Center in Venice on April 20 and 21. If you are interested in attending, please pick up a registration form on the Ministry patio today or call the church office, 488-2258. Registration is limited to 52 women. The cost is \$125, double occupancy. Limited scholarships are available.

## VPC TRAVELERS

For information on any of our travel adventures, please check out the Kiosk near the Information Center. Our next trip will be March 27, **Cirque Dreams Illumination**. Check out the Kiosk for additional trips and information or contact Patricia Bullock, 493-7866, or Barbara Price, 497-0854.

## VIP SINGLES

Whether you are unmarried, divorced, or widowed, member or friend of the church, all ages are welcome to join our singles family. Pick up a copy of our **Winter Newsletter** at the Kiosk near the Information Center. For additional information, please call Jan Marshall, 497-1075.

## GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY

**TODAY** is National Girl Scout Sunday, celebrating 98 years of this worldwide service organization. Members of our own Troop are participating in the processional at the 11 o'clock service and Girl Scout cookies will be available for purchase on the Ministry patio before and after the 11 o'clock service. Thank you for your support.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

- **SPA DAY**, March 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Are you ready for an island cruise? Set sail for Port Paradise. Have fun with your friends and guests from beginning to end relaxing on deck, experiencing shore excursions, and meditating on God's wisdom for sailing the seas of life. \$5 tickets available on the Ministry patio today, or reserve to Barbara Edwards, 492-6617, or your circle leader. **All women are welcome!**

## BEGINNING THE JOURNEY @ VPC

Those who wish to **consider membership** or affiliate membership are invited to participate in an **orientation dinner, Thursday evening, March 25 from 6-8 p.m.** Pizza will be served. Prospective members meet the pastors, learn more about our Presbyterian heritage and polity, our ministries, and connect with new friends. We will continue our orientation on Saturday, March 27 from 9—11 a.m. Please sign up on the Ministry patio today, or call the church office, 488-2258.

### Happy Birthday 90+

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Mert DeLancey	26
Richard Stewart	09
Marian Voorhorst	13

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

<u>Happy Anniversary 50 +</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Years</u>
John & Georgie Ann Fedako	13	50
Dan & Bonnie Johnston	01	53

# Spiritual Growth

## CONNECTIONS GROUP



“**Connections**” is a Sunday morning gathering of adults of all ages who are interested and willing to engage in informal, personal conversation about the “connection” of our faith to daily life. In the process, we examine biblical texts, church doctrines, religious & secular books, and personal experience as we make closer “connections” with God and each other. Our current study is M. Scott Peck’s book, *The Road Less Traveled: A New Psychology of Love, Traditional Values, and Spiritual Growth*. Drop into Room #8 (no prior attendance or reservation is required) on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 where you will be most welcome to join in challenging study and discussion facilitated by Pastor Chuck. Copies of Peck’s book are available for \$10 by contacting Pastor Chuck.

## BETH MOORE

### SERENDIPITY BIBLE STUDY

There is still time to join the Beth Moore Bible Study for women. A gifted teacher and passionate Christ-follower, Beth Moore shares Biblical insights and observations in this DVD-based study called *Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit*. Workbooks can be purchased for \$20. Call the church office to reserve a workbook, 488-2258, then join us every Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. Childcare provided. Women’s Retreat, April 20 and 21. See page 3 for details.

## UPCOMING

### LEARNING COMMUNITIES

#### THE GOSPEL IN INDIA

Beginning Wednesday March 3, Pastor Chris Romig and Bob Nelson (President of India Outreach Ministries) will present an inspiring look at God’s work in India. This five-week series will include pictures and video footage from their recent mission trip, and we’re hoping a special guest from India will be able to join us for one of the presentations. These Wednesday evening sessions will meet in the sanctuary from 6—7 p.m. All are welcome, and no sign-up is required.

#### THE POWER OF A GODLY GRANDPARENT

Whether your grandchildren live across the country, down the street, or down the hall, this study led by Pastor Ruffin and others will demonstrate how to leave a spiritual legacy.

- Give your grandchildren the power of unconditional love.
- Give your grandchildren the power of your own testimony of faith.
- Give your grandchildren the power of your prayers.

Cost: \$11 (for participant book). Six sessions. Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. in Room 8.

If you have local friends or neighbors whom you would like to receive special mailings for our church’s community outreach events, only (Advent or Lenten services, concert events, etc.) **or** be included in our weekly pastor’s e-note, please share these names, addresses, and email address with our church. Email: [cander-son@venicepresbyterian.org](mailto:cander-son@venicepresbyterian.org) or call the church office, 488-2258.

# Ministry

## Church Calendar

Week of March 7—13

### Sunday, March 7

- 9 am—Connections Class, Room 8
- 4 pm—Contemporary Choir, Choir Room

### Monday, March 8

- 9 am—3 M's (Monday Membership), Workroom 2
- 12 pm—Prayer Shawl Ministry, Fellowship Hall
- 2 pm—Building & Grounds, CMC I
- 4:30 pm—Stephen Ministry Peer Group, Room 8

### Tuesday, March 9

- Grounds Beautification Team, Church Grounds
- 9:00 am—Presbyterian Women Service Day, Fellowship H.
- 9 am—Concert Series Committee, CMC I
- 2:30 pm—Beth Moore Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
- 4 pm—Trustees Meeting, Room 8
- 7:30 pm—Al-Anon, CMC I

### Wednesday, March 10

- 9 am—Mid-Week Communion Service, Sanctuary
- 9:30 am—Prayer Group, Heritage Room
- Noon—Staff Meeting, Room 8
- 1:30 pm—Buddy Break Meeting, Library
- 6:15 pm—Chamber Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
- 7:30 pm—Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

### Thursday, March 11

- 9:30 am—Worship Council Meeting, Heritage Room
- 1:30 pm—Stephen Ministry Peer Group, Room 8
- 6 pm—Handbell Choir, Sanctuary

### Friday, March 12

- 8:30 am—Bulletin Volunteers, Room 8

In order to **use any rooms in our facility**, or if your ministry needs space on the **Ministry Patio** on Sundays, you **must** call the church office to reserve a room or space. *Thank You.* 488-2258.

*We believe that God calls every Christian to a form of ministry that can bring unmatched joy and fulfillment to life. We invite each person to explore how their unique gifts, talents, resources, individuality, dreams, and experiences might shape them for a particular avenue of service to God. Contact any of our pastors to explore thrilling possibilities!*

### **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

2010 scholarship applications are available for members of VPC and may be picked up at the Kiosk on the patio. Deadline to apply is March 15.

### **HINT FOR HEALTH**

Ease your sugar intake. Look for alternative ways to bring *sweetness* into your life.

### **PASTORS E-NEWS**

*If you have friends or neighbors whom you would like to receive our weekly e-note from the pastor, please contact the church office with their email address.*

# Missions

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## IMMOKALEE MISSION TRIP – SIGN UP ON THE PATIO TODAY!

VPC will be preparing and serving supper to over 600 farm workers out of Mission Peniel in Immokalee, and sorting donated clothes and household items, **Friday, March 12.** We will leave VPC at noon and return around 7:30pm. Let's share the love of Jesus Christ with those less fortunate than ourselves. We have plenty of volunteers going...please pray for us.

## SOUTH COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

On Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, we will have a special food collection for the food pantry. Paper grocery bags will be distributed on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the end of each service. Over the last few years, the number of families seeking assistance has grown from 190 per month to 500! Your continued support of this vital local mission is deeply appreciated. Would you like to help with the collection? Volunteers are needed on March 14<sup>th</sup> to hand out grocery bags. On March 21<sup>st</sup>, help is needed to assist members with their donations. On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, volunteers are needed to sort food, repack it and deliver it to the food pantry. **Sign up sheets are available at the Mission Table on the patio** or you may call the church office.

## MARCH MONTHLY MISSION GIVING

The March offering will maintain our support of Erick and Cynthia Estrada in Guatemala. They are providing a Christian home for eleven children, eight previously homeless, where they home school and teach them the love of Jesus Christ. In addition Cynthia continues to give Bible lessons at Cortijo, site of the clinic, and at several other villages. "We are all obeying God's word but most important of all we are living it and obeying Ecclesiastes 9:10: *"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might..."*

## GUATEMALA TEAM UPDATE

The team made it down to Guatemala with their luggage this year:

Saturday, arrived in Guatemala City.

Sunday a ten hour bus ride to the mountainous region of Nebaj.

Monday, poured cement floors and prepped for stove installation.

Tuesday-Saturday: Installed ONIL Stoves and performed general home repairs.

Sunday-Monday: Head to Antigua for team debrief.

Tuesday: Return to Venice.

## SERVICE FOR MISSIONS

Service for Missions meets next Tuesday at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The sewers make garments for Mission kiddies, both boys and girls. Stamp workers sort gift stamps, which are sent to Duval Presbyterian Home for resale, and the tray favors group makes the Meals on Wheels favors. Remember, we will continue to "rip and roll" every second Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 in Fellowship Hall. Come on out and bring a bag lunch.

## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS FOR SCHOOL IN HAITI

If you or any friends have any musical instruments you will never play again, or you can encourage your friends and neighbors to search through their attics to see if they have any, we will gather them together and arrange to get them shipped over to the school in Haiti. Contact: **Bram Bone 961-9168.** We can arrange to pick up or you can bring them to church on Sunday. If you don't have instruments, but would like to help in some way, monetary contributions would be appreciated. The money will allow us to purchase beginners books, music stands and get repairs carried out so that all the instruments we send are in good working order. Earmark checks for Musical Instruments Haiti.

# Caring Ministries

## PRAY FOR MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Recent surgery or hospitalization: Don Den Uyl, Mary Gaston, Doris Harper.

Special Concerns: Peg Bloker, Vi Buehler, Rich Brooks, Harry Hutchinson, Ruth Johnson, Joan Pope, Les Stephenson, Bob Sykes, Mollie Watters, Bill Webb.

In Care Facilities: Mollie Asch, Don Bloker, Elizabeth Boyd, Mary Brown, Jessie Calhoun, Arabella Fry, Edie Gardner, Ruth Godefroy, Julia Henderson, Alida Holman, Bob and Lillian Jagel, Bob Kempes, Ann Kek, Doris Long, Marie Moore, Jean Patton, Bill Ridley, John Rommel, Bob Schramm, Dorothy Wallace, Jean West-Walker, Jack Wheeler.

Bereavement: Judy Auerbach, Laura Bennawy, Kay Herron, Chris Wilhelm.

***If you or someone you know is hospitalized, please notify the church office.***

## MEDICAL EQUIPMENT CLOSET

If you need medical equipment in your home this week, please contact, Henry Price.

## CARING MEAL MINISTRY

Are you, or someone you know, going into the hospital? Do you know someone going through a difficult time who could use a home-cooked meal? A free meal can be delivered directly to someone's home. Contact Bette Keys, 485-5694.



## We Express Our Christian Sympathy to:

The family of **Ernie Auerbach** whose death occurred February 25, 2010. A memorial service was held Sunday, February 28, at 5 p.m.

## PRAYER MINISTRIES

**Prayer Request Cards** — are located in the pews. They may be placed in the offering plate or the box located on the prayer table on the patio. Requests submitted via the prayer cards are confidential, and are prayed for by the church's pastors and prayer teams.

**Prayer Chain Requests** —When life is overwhelming, remember God is always there to ease your heavy burdens. Please call the Prayer Chain with your request, Dorothy Brown, 486-5198.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**—Knitters meet at noon on Mondays in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions or know someone who would be comforted with a prayer shawl, please contact Peg Moffett 485-9204.

**Catherine Morton Prayer Group** — meets Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. to pray for those in need. These communal prayers bring hope, love and healing. The group sends cards for all special occasions and invites you to sign them on Sundays, before and after worship services.

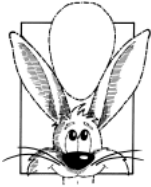
**Have A Heart** — we encourage you to continue to pray for our congregation's military personnel. A complete list with addresses is available at the Information Center Kiosk.

## PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY MAIN EVENT

**"Aging as a Spiritual Journey"** Saturday, **March 13 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** To be held at Faith Presbyterian Church in Cape Coral. Key-note speaker, The Rev. Dr. Henry Simmons, will speak on transitions and stable periods in the last third of life. Over 15 exciting workshops including two lead by VPC members, Pat O'Gorman and Judy Cross of "Transitions", and Dick Edmunds "Second Half. Cost is \$15 per person and includes lunch. Registration forms, due March 5, are available on the Ministry patio today.

# Family Ministries

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## Things are *HOPPING* at VPC

**March 27<sup>th</sup>: Mother–Son Fishing Trip! 6:30am (!)** Take advantage of this great bonding experience - a 4 hour inshore fishing experience. Moms, you don't have to bait lines, touch fish, or bring any tackle. It's all included in the **\$25 per family** charge. Invite folks you know to be a part of this great experience! Sign-up begins today on the patio. See pastor Ruffin after worship for more details...

**March 28<sup>th</sup>: Palm Sunday.** The VPC Children are processing with Palms and singing in 11am worship! Stop by the Family Ministries Table and pick up a CD of the music - we want every child to lift a voice to the Lord!

**April 1: Maundy Thursday.** *The Jesus Film for Kids* will be shown in Fellowship Hall along with a brief message following especially for our children 5<sup>th</sup> grade and below. Refreshments will be served and childcare provided during the film and for the Maundy Thursday worship service in the sanctuary.

**April 3: Venice Eggstravaganza, 8:45am.** We'll meet up at Centennial Park Downtown and participate in the Venice Mainstreet annual tradition. Pack a picnic lunch for the family and enjoy the fellowship.

**April 4: Easter Sunday.** Families meet in Fellowship Hall at 10am for refreshments and a puppet show. At 10:30 we'll proceed out to the playground for the egg hunt! Then on to Easter worship and Children's Church with fun Easter crafts and games.

**SAVE THE DATE! Vacation Bible School is June 14-18** (9 – 12 noon) this summer – join us for this awesome time to show the love of Christ to our Community!

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## Sunday Morning Worship

Worship is a large part of who we are as the body of Christ across all generations! The key connection point for all our Family Ministries is on the patio at the Family Welcome Center. This is a clearly marked area outside the sanctuary for children and young people; drop on by to:

- Sign-in your children
- Pick up your child's name tag
- Get flyers about upcoming events and opportunities
- And of course... We will welcome visitors and give them directions and instruction for where their children can go and where to pick them up.



**A NURSERY IS AVAILABLE** for children two and under in the Infant/Toddler Building. All parents are encouraged to stop by the nursery to sign in your children and pick up a beeper for our attendants to contact you if the need should arise.



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